

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3444
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
TELEPHONE FACILITY TO FARMERS
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have provided telephone facility to farmers in backward rural areas on lower rates; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI. TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): The Government announced a package of concessions in 1995 applicable to subscribers (including farmers) of Rural areas. These included concessions in Registration, Rental, Free call limits and Callcharges etc.. Despite Telecom Regulatory authority's Tariff Order of March,99 stipulating inter-alia increase in rental and call charges in rural areas, Government decided to retain the concessions made available to Rural subscribers in 1995.